

Mental Retardation/Related Disabilities (MR/RD) Waiver Information Sheet

South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs

Prior to 1991, the Federal Medicaid program paid for services to SCDDSN consumers only if that person lived in an institution. The approval of Federal Home and Community Based Waiver programs allowed Medicaid to pay for services to consumers in their homes and in their communities. Section 1915(c) of the Federal Social Security Act enables the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services to collaborate with the South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (SCDDSN) to operate a Home and Community-Based Waiver program for people with Mental Retardation or Related Disabilities (MR/RD).

MR/RD Waiver Participation

To participate in the MR/RD Waiver, a person must:

- ✓ be diagnosed with Mental Retardation or a Related Disability.
- ✓ be eligible to receive Medicaid or already qualify for Medicaid.
- ✓ require the degree of care that would be provided in an ICF/ID; therefore, meet ICF/ID Level of Care criteria.
- ✓ be given the option of receiving services in his/her home and community or in an ICF/ID and choose to receive services in his/her home and community.
- ✓ have needs that can be met by the MR/RD Waiver.
- ✓ be allocated a waiver slot.
- ✓ be informed of the alternatives covered by the MR/RD Waiver, choose to receive MR/RD Waiver services, and choose among qualified providers.

MR/RD Waiver Termination

MR/RD Waiver Enrollment is terminated when the participant:

- ✓ is admitted to an ICF/ID or nursing facility.
- ✓ no longer meets ICF/ID Level of Care.
- ✓ is no longer eligible for Medicaid, as determined by SCDHHS.
- ✓ voluntarily withdraws or no longer wishes to receive services funded by the MR/RD Waiver.
- ✓ does not receive a MR/RD Waiver service for 30 consecutive days.

Applying for MR/RD Waiver Services

- Contact your assigned Service Coordinator/Early Interventionist (SC/EI). If you are not receiving Service Coordination or Early Intervention, contact the Disabilities and Special Needs (DSN) Board in the county in which you live. This information can be obtained by contacting the SCDDSN Office of Community Education at (803) 898-9692 or at www.state.sc.us/ddsn/.
- Inform your SC/EI or local DSN Board that you wish to apply for the MR/RD Waiver. They will work with you to gather the information needed to complete the application.
- You will receive a written response from SCDDSN regarding your MR/RD Waiver application.

Applying for DDSN Services

- For persons under age 3, application must be made through BabyNet. Contact information can be obtained by calling the BabyNet Care Line at 1-800-868-0404. BabyNet eligibility/services do not have to be obtained in order to apply for the MR/RD Waiver.
- For persons age 3 and older, contact the University of South Carolina, Center for Disability Resources at 1-800-289-7012.
- If you are screened appropriate for consideration of eligibility, you will choose a Service Coordination/Early Intervention (SC/EI) provider, who will assist you with completing the eligibility process. Application for MR/RD Waiver services can be made at this time.
- An applicant found ineligible for SCDDSN services will be notified in writing, including reason(s) for denial. This notification will provide information on how to appeal denial of eligibility.

Your Annual Plan

An annual plan of services and supports **must** be completed within 365 days of the previous plan. If your new plan is not completed by the 364th day, Medicaid cannot pay for your services that were provided. Please work with your Service Coordinator or Early Interventionist to make sure that your plan is completed at least once every year.

Mental Retardation/Related Disabilities Waiver Services

MR/RD Waiver services are provided based on identified needs of the participant and the appropriateness of the service to meet the need. Services may be limited due to provider availability. A list of enrolled and qualified providers of MR/RD Waiver services can be located at the SCDDSN website (www.state.sc.us/ddsn/) or by contacting the local Disabilities and Special Needs Board in the county in which the participant lives or the participant's Service Coordination/Early Intervention provider. The following services are available through the MR/RD Waiver:

- **Adult Attendant Care Services:** assistance with activities of daily living and personal care for those adult participants (age 21 or older) who are able to self-direct their care; limited to 28 hours per week (28 combined hours of Adult Attendant Care, Adult Companion and Personal Care 2)
- **Adult Companion Services:** non-medical care, supervision, and socialization provided to an adult (age 21 or older); limited to 28 hours per week (28 combined hours of Adult Attendant Care, Adult Companion and Personal Care 2)
- **Adult Day Health Care:** care furnished to someone 21 or older 5 or more hours per day for one or more days per week, in an outpatient setting, encompassing both health and social services
- **Adult Day Health Care Nursing:** provided in ADHC center; limited to ostomy care, urinary catheter care, decubitus/wound care, tracheotomy care, tube feedings and nebulizer treatment
- **Adult Day Health Care Transportation:** prior-authorized for participants receiving Adult Day Health Care (ADHC) who reside within 15 miles of the ADHC center
- **Adult Dental Services:** extension of the State Plan Medicaid benefit for adult participants (21 or older)
- **Adult Vision:** extension of the State Plan Medicaid benefit for adult participants (21 or older)
- **Audiology Services:** extension of the State Plan Medicaid benefit for adult participants (21 or older)
- **Behavior Support Services:** services to assist people who exhibit problem behaviors learn why the behavior occurs and to teach new appropriate behaviors which are effective and improve their quality of life
- **Career Preparation Services:** services aimed at preparing participants for careers through exposure to and experience with various careers and through teaching such concepts as compliance, attendance, task completion, problem solving, safety, self-determination, and self-advocacy
- **Community Services:** services aimed at developing one's awareness of, interaction with and/or participation in his/her community through exposure to and experience in the community and through teaching such concepts as self-determination, self-advocacy, socialization and the accrual of social capital
- **Day Activity:** activities and services provided in therapeutic settings to enable participants to achieve, maintain, improve or decelerate the loss of personal care, social or adaptive skills
- **Employment Services:** intensive, on-going supports for participants for whom competitive employment at or above minimum wage is unlikely absent the provision of supports and who, because of their disabilities, need supports to perform in a regular work setting
- **Environmental Modifications:** physical adaptations to the participant's home which are necessary to ensure the health, welfare and safety of the participant (e.g. installation of ramps and grab-bars, widening of doorways, modification of bathroom facilities, etc.); lifetime cap of \$7,500
- **Nursing Services:** services provided within the scope of the South Carolina Nurse Practice Act, as ordered by a physician; cannot exceed 56 hours/week of LPN services or 42 hours/week of RN services; Nursing Services are available through State Plan Medicaid for those under 21
- **Personal Care (I and II):** assistance with personal care and activities of daily living for consumers 21 or older; limited to 6 hours per week of Personal Care 1 and 28 hours per week of Personal Care 2 (28 combined hours of Adult Attendant Care, Adult Companion and Personal Care 2); Personal Care Services are available through State Plan Medicaid for those under 21
- **Personal Emergency Response System (PERS):** an electronic device that enables participants at high risk of institutionalization to secure help in an emergency; limited to those participants who live alone or who are alone in their own home for significant parts of the day or night and who would otherwise require extensive routine supervision
- **Prescribed Drugs:** two (2) prescriptions in addition to the State Plan Medicaid limit of four (4) for adult participants (21 or older)
- **Private Vehicle Modifications:** modifications to a privately owned vehicle used to transport the participant (e.g. installation of a lift, tie downs, lowering the floor of the vehicle, raising the roof, etc.); limit of \$7,500 per vehicle with a lifetime cap of 2 vehicles
- **Psychological Services:** services focused on assessment of needs and counseling/therapy designed to address cognitive and/or affective skills
- **Residential Habilitation:** care, skills training and supervision in a non-institutional setting
- **Respite Care:** care provided on a short-term basis because of the absence or need for relief of those persons normally providing the care; limited to 68 hours per month unless approved for an exception by SCDDSN
- **Specialized Medical Equipment, Supplies and Assistive Technology:** devices, controls, appliances, items necessary for life support, ancillary supplies, equipment, and durable and non-durable equipment not available through State Plan Medicaid that provides medical or remedial benefit to the participant; liquid nutrition limited to 2 cases per month; limit of one (1) wheelchair every five (5) years, limited to a cost of \$8,000 per wheelchair; diapers and under pads are available for participants 3 years old and older, limited to 3 cases of diapers/month and 3 cases of under pads/month
- **Support Center:** non-medical care, supervision and assistance provided in a non-institutional, group setting outside of the participant's home to people who, because of their disability, are unable to care for and supervise themselves